

However, a weight-of-evidence approach can only work if there is full disclosure of industry-generated unpublished studies. In order to obtain scientific consensus on such matters, we propose that technical reviews of unpublished industry data be carried out by scientists and other technical experts working under the aegis of institutions such as the National Academy of Sciences, the Health Effects Institute, or other similar independent organizations. We would welcome the creation of such institutional arrangements to make it possible for exposure and health risk assessments to be conducted on a complete scientific knowledge base.

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EMF Working Group

A brief note on the results of the NIEHS EMF working group was given in the September issue of *EHP* [106:A431 (1998)]. It may be helpful if more details of the NIEHS EMF working group deliberations are provided.

The NIEHS EMF working group members voted according to guidelines used in the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) *Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans*. No members voted to classify EMFs as either a known or probable human carcinogen (IARC groups 1 and 2A), 19 members voted to classify EMFs as a possible human carcinogen

(IARC group 2B), 8 voted to classify EMFs as not a human carcinogen (IARC group 3), and 1 voted to classify EMFs as probably not a human carcinogen (IARC group 4).

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"Politically Correct" Research

It is unfortunate that the National Institutes of Health have become so politicized. I do not understand how the original study of Swan et al. [Have Sperm Densities Declined? A Reanalysis of Global Trend Data. *EHP* 105:1228-1232 (1997)] got such widespread attention; one would expect the arguably most important government organ concerned with the study of health issues in the United States to have a higher standard than that exemplified in its dissemination of its original study.

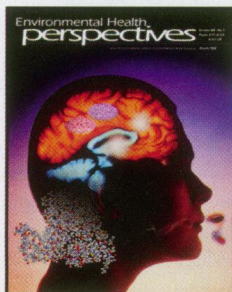
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